AIM

THE BULLETIN OF THE AMERICAN INDEPENDENT MOVEMENT

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NEW HAVEN PROTESTS WAR

The April 15th Mobilization to end the war in Vietnam has one theme--bring peace to Vietnam. And in New Haven, a large coalition of individuals and groups with many different persuasions on how to end the war are mobilizing their forces to participate in the demonstration on Saturday, April 15th in New York City. The local peace and social action groups are supporting and advertising the Mobilization through mailings, phone calls and lots of talking; the New Haven Council of Churches has sent a mailing to ministers, rabbis and priests in the Greater New Haven Area urging them to participate and to encourage their parishoners to do the same; several professional organizations and groups in the Yale community, student and faculty, are involved in the Mobilization; local AIM groups in Branford, Guilford and Hamden are also urging participation.

Buses will leave the New Haven Green (corner of Elm and College Streets) at 9 a.m. and will return to New Haven at about 7 p.m. MAKE RESERVATIONS NOW -- it will be impossible to get more buses at the last minute. If you plan to go by car to N.Y. (which we discourage because of the difficulties of parking and meeting the Connecticut delegation in N.Y.) please meet the buses on the New Haven Green on Saturday at 9 a.m. to receive information on where the Connecticut contingent will be located in Central Park.

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Tom Paxton entertaining local high school students on March 25. He will return to New Haven on April 26 doing a concert for AIM.

FOLK-PROTEST SING

Bright blue and orange posters are being placed around the New Haven area publicizing the April 26 AIM benefit concert. In addition to the AIM office, Elliot's Books, 29 Broadway, Goldie and Libro Music Center, 593 Chapel, and Loomis Temple of Music, 101 Orange are also selling the $2.50 tickets. Tickets will also be sold at Woolsey Hall the night of the performance, according to Judy Eaton of the Community Concert Committee, sponsors of the entertainment.

Judy Collins, Tom Paxton, and the Mitchell Trio will appear. In contrast to the other performers, Judy Collins is a straight folk performer. She prefers singing Scottish and Southern mountain ballads, accompanying herself on the guitar.

Tom Paxton, who entertained area high school students March 25 as part of the Perspectives '67 program, is a protest-song writer and singer. Commenting on his anti-war song, "Lyndon Johnson Tells the Nation," Paxton explains that he finds "no childish delight in taking a minority position such as this. I wish we all agreed and got the hell out and then we could hunt up something less

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The bulletin of the American Independent Movement will be published every two or three weeks.
Letters to the editor are invited.
Subscriptions to the AIM newsletter cost $2 a year, $5 for a sponsoring subscription
Fill out your checks to AIM newsletter and send to
IPAC
241 Orange Street
New Haven, 06510.
For information write or call 787-0123.

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Checks should be made out to April 15th Mobilization; Adults $5, Students $4, Children (under 12) $3 -- Family rates available; send reservation to 241 Orange Street, New Haven.

Any problems - any questions - call Nina Adams, 787-0123

WEEK OF PROTEST

How many times have people told you to "go fly a kite" with your ideas? Well the high school students are going to have a Kite Fly-in for Peace--probably on Tuesday or Wednesday, April 11 or 12, (depends on the wind) after school.

Wednesday, April 12, 12:30 to 1:30 - join the weekly Vigil for Peace on the New Haven Green. It is dignified and impressive, and the press and the people on lunch hour really pay attention. PLEASE JOIN IT - on April 12 particularly - and on every other Wednesday.

Friday, April 14th, 8 p.m.- Street Hall, Yale University (corner of High and Chapel Streets). An all night Film-in, Art Show, Speak out -- a hippy protest against the war with many peace films never shown in New Haven before. Come early or late; it should be both fun and interesting.

Wednesday, Thursday and Friday- An exciting experiment in bringing protest to people - a mobile truck of song, dance, poetry and speech against the war in Vietnam. It will cruise around New Haven stopping at high schools, shopping plazas, and on just street corners with its peace performance. We've never tried anything like this before and are excited about the possibilities of using it more often - if it works.

For information on any or all of the activities call 787-0123.

COOK URGES AGE 18 VOTE

Robert Cook emphatically endorsed the lowering of Connecticut's voting age to 18 years. In a March 7 letter to Senator Frank A. Piccolo, Chairman of Constitutional Amendments Committee, Cook said:

"The proposition for lowering the legal voting age once again confronts the Connecticut State Legislature. In regard to this important issue the American Independent Movement of the Third Congressional District of Connecticut urges and encourages the reduction of the legal voting age from 21 to 18 years.

"Civic participation and acceptance of mature responsibilities by the 18 year old certainly vindicates his right to suffrage. With the trend toward more and higher education, young people today are more aware of the issues than ever before. They are subject to taxation, military conscription, legal responsibility before courts of law, and they may marry and raise a family. Their contributions in a democratic society are significant: they are the ones who assumed the responsibility of fighting for the right to vote in the South, and they are the ones who fight the wars.

"It is inexplicable and inexcusable that an estimated 90,000 persons in the 18 through 20 age group have had their voting rights simply left in abeyance for so long a time. We feel that this lack of action and irresponsiveness to the rights and needs of the young people of Connecticut can no longer be tolerated. Now is the time for our duly elected representatives to manifest those qualities of decisiveness objectivity and responsibility for which they were chosen."

CO information

The American Friends Service Committee has set up a draft counseling service for the New Haven area. Anyone who wants help in applying for CO status or information about the alternatives should call Betsy Gilbertsen, 777-8725, for an appointment.

ANY WEDNESDAY

A Conversation Overheard Recently in the Union-New Haven Trust Company

Young secretary: Hey, did you see them today?
Middle-aged secretary: Who?
Y: You know. The peace vigil. I felt so sad for them today. There were only two.
M: Yeah. I remember when there used to be 80 or 100. I guess it was too cold today, even for their ideas.
Y: I felt so sorry for them that I felt like joining them myself. Maybe it will grow again when spring comes.
Bank officer (entering): What's that?
Y: The peace vigil.
B: Oh yes. I see them every Wednesday. Seems like different people every week.

* * * * *

Did you stay away from the vigil last time because it was cold? People will notice if you're not there--every Wednesday, 12:30, on the Green.
Make a special effort to join the vigil on April 12th during the Week of Protest. It is particularly important that a large number of people turn out during that week.

folk sing cont.

murderous to argue about." "The Willing Conscript" is, as Paxton describes it, "based on two delightful pastoral months at Fort Riley, Kansas."

The Mitchell Trio's rendition of "Barry's Boys" was the bright spot in the 1964 Presidential campaign for many. Good times at Ole Miss are recreated in "Alma Mater" and "The Draft Dodger Rag" might be fun for those still [illegible] of uniform.

AMERICAN MEDICINE: BUSINESS OR SERVICE?

Medicine in the United States is a business. Doctors are pledged to service and morality, but they profit from the suffering and fear of their customers.

The ailing citizen must shop for the care he needs for survival, and for recovery from illness. He makes his purchase blindfolded, because he doesn't know how much he needs, or how long he will need it, or how much the specialized and technical care is worth.

The price of health is rising rapidly. From 1953 to 1963, the amount spent on hospital care went up nearly 2½ times as fast as the income of most people. In 1953, the average worker spent 2½ weeks' earnings for an average hospital stay; today he spends more than a month's pay.

IN CONNECTICUT

Many families find it hard to meet the burden. The poor and aged, who suffer the greatest risks to health and the most illness, get the least medical care. In Connecticut, nearly 60% of children from families with incomes under $2000 have never been to a dentist, compared with only 9.7% of those families with incomes over $7000. In families with incomes under $3000, only half of all mothers get adequate, regular care during pregnancy, compared with 80% in families with incomes above $7000. In New Haven, non-white infant deaths have increased to 2½ times white infant deaths.

Why is medicine so expensive that many cannot pay? There are several reasons:

1) More modern medical methods mean equipment, buildings, and specialist doctors cost more.

2) Underpaid nurses and hospital workers are finally beginning to bargain for and receive fairer wages.

3) Poor planning means small hospitals are built, duplicating costly equipment that is seldom used.

4) Hospital insurance often does not cover outside care, so patients demand hospital care, which is more expensive.

5) Insurance can also hide medical and nursing education costs, and the difference between welfare allowances and hospital costs.

INADEQUATE SERVICES

But high costs are not the only problem of the American medicine business. There is poor planning, and not enough medical services for all citizens. In New Haven, public and charitable support covers only about one-fourth of the total cost of hospital clinics and the difference must be made up by high clinic fees and in-patient rates. Mothers must travel to a hospital for health care for their children. Many people depend on emergency rooms and clinics for almost all of their care. Often those in need of emergency treatment must wait for hours in the city's two emergency rooms. As in most of the nation, medical facilities are an unplanned and disorganized system of hospitals, laboratories and nursing homes.

The United States has the resources and ability to develop a system of national health services and national health insurance to eliminate these problems. The United States is the only major industrialized nation in the world which does not now have a national health services system. Such a system would have two main features: 1) a full health insurance system; 2) a system of community health centers with coordination by regional centers.

Health is a public concern, and benefits all the people. Therefore, national health insurance should provide comprehensive and speciality services to all without cost, financed by a portion of the national wealth. Public funds could, at least at first, supplement the Social Security system. Medicare has demonstrated that the private doctor's practice need not be interfered with.

COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

The community health center would provide in one place services for treatment and for preventive medicine. These services would include: 1) prenatal and obstetrical care, 2) prevention and control of infectious diseases, 3) periodic check-up facilities, 4) clinic and hospital services for adolescents, working men and women, and the retired and aging, 5) x-ray and laboratory facilities, 6) facilities for environmental health control and study. The services would be the responsibility of a team including a personal family physician, health nurse, and other specialists and consultants as needed.

The services of the community health center should not wait for crisis and illness, but should operate through education and preventive services. Only early diagnosis and prompt treatment can provide protection against unnecessary medical complications and premature death. Only education can make people able to take care of themselves.

Regional centers could be established to provide the most efficient distribution of highly specialized facilities, equipment, and personnel. They should be connected with central planning bodies, on the regional level, to decide on distribution and prevent duplication of buildings, equipment, personnel and services.

COMMUNITY VIEWS

Such planning should involve the community for the beginning. Public hearings should be organized so that the community people will be able to present their problems and ideas. Each region would need to identify its resources and capacities, and also the particular health problems of the area. The information on which the regional planning centers make decisions should be avail-

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WHAT'S GOING ON?

A survey of current peace activity in New Haven reveals a variety of approaches to the problems raised by the war in Vietnam. Protest work is being done by ad hoc groups as well as existing organizations, by high school students as well as veteran activists.

The visit of 65 women to Washington on February 15 under the auspices of Womens Strike for Peace has spurred local action. A committee headed by Myra Fassell has been formed to discuss specific ways to further constructive dialogue with Senator Ribicoff. On March 25 13 concerned citizens from New Haven met with Rep. Giaimo in his office here in an attempt to reopen lines of communication clogged, if not closed, after the Washington interview. An attempt to organize supermarket protest against the use of products of Dow Chemical Co., maker of napalm, has been organized by Liz Rose. Local area managers of Pegnataros and national chain stores were contacted; the only positive response came from the manager of the National Consumers Cooperative (Co-op), who has agreed to post by Dow products a sign identifying Dow with the manufacture of napalm.

NEW HAVEN YOUNG FRIENDS

The New Haven Young Friends Committee for Vietnam Relief, a group of eight persons associated with Yale, has received national publicity for its program of fund raising to send medical relief to North and South Vietnam. Contributions in the forms of cash or personal checks made out to James Matlack (49 Orchard Place, New Haven) will be sent to the Canadian Friends Service Committee. Over $1000 has already been collected.

NEW HAVEN SANE

New Haven SANE has also sponsored a successful fund raising campaign. Over $500 was raised to pay for the full page "Stop the Bombing" ads which appeared in the Register and Journal-Courier on April 3. SANE has also recently published a booklet entitled "Swords into Plowshares." It reports the results of a study on peaceful reconversion of national defense industries with specific references to Connecticut. The booklet was written by Jody Stadler and Jack Crane of New Haven. Support for pending legislation is invited.

AIM PEACE ACTIVITY

The focus of AIM peace activity is on Vietnam Week, the week preceding the Spring Mobilization in New York on April 15, and on coordinating participation from New Haven in the New York demonstration. The plans for Vietnam Week reflect an innovative spirit: they include a Film-in, during which several hours of relevant films will be shown at Yale; a mobile unit consisting of a flat-bed truck on which will be performed a choreographed collage of readings, songs, and movement; and the Wednesday vigil on the New Haven Green will hopefully be expanded by large numbers of people. The addition of an artistic dimension to the vigil is being contemplated. A new high school AIM chapter has b been formed; its contribution to Vietnam Week will be a "Kite Fly-in" for peace. The AIM coordinator for Vietnam Week and the Saturday New York demonstration is Nina Adams.

AIM people participated in a peace vigil on Easter Sunday outside the United Church on the New Haven Green as CBS national television broadcast the church's first service since the restoration of its building. Rev. David Weinland of the United Church supported the vigil and, in fact, spoke favorably of it in his nationally televised sermon. A more complete story on this activity will appear in the next AIM Newsletter.

"WE WON'T GO" GROUP

The members of "We Won't Go" (New Haven), an organization formed by young men who have made public statements of their unwillingness to be inducted into the armed forces, are now attempting to translate this stand into further action. Projects they are starting to get involved in include the draft information center, leafletting the induction center, and talking with high school students. They are also attempting to get in touch with members of other "We Won't Go" Unions in order to bring together young men who have the same draft boards but have announced their intention not to serve in the armed forces separately. It is hoped that such coordination will provide the basis for widespread local unions of draft resisters.

Direct action projects which cut across group lines are the regular Wednesday vigil on the New Haven green from 12:30 to 1:30 and the Spring Mobilization in New York on April 15. Mailings encouraging their memberships to support the Mobilization have been made by AIM, SANE, and the New Haven Council of Churches. Transportation arrangements are being made through the AIM office.

Betsy Gilbertson, American Friends Service Committee - Vietnam Volunteer

Senator Wayne Morse was the featured speaker at a March 18 panel discussion of Perspectives '67 at the Yale Law School Auditorium.

Morse revealed that in a Nov. 1963 chat with President Kennedy, the President had said to him, "I'm not so sure that you're wrong in your criticism of my Vietnam policy."

The Senator said he doubted Kennedy would have escalated the Vietnam war.

INDIGENT INJUSTICE

A horrifying case of coerced confessions and denial of legal rights was unfolded at the March 14 talk sponsored by Yale-IPAC.

Annette Rubinstein, principal of the former Harlem Freedom School, and Mrs. Hamm, mother of one of the imprisoned boys, told the story of the Harlem Six-- six young Harlem Negroes who were sentenced to life imprisonment for the April, 1964 murder of Mrs. Magrit Sugar, and the attempted murder of her husband. Mr. and Mrs. Sugar were husband-wife proprietors of a West 125th St. clothing store.

Mrs. Hamm, mother of Daniel Hamm, who is serving his sentence in Auburn State Prison, vividly described the events of the night her son was arrested.

Her attorney tried in vain to see the Hamm boy in the station house from 7:20 in the evening until he gave up and left at one in the morning.

At 5 that morning, Daniel called his mother and told her that, after torture and grilling by the police, he had "confessed" to his role in the robbery-murder. He later retracted his confession, as did the others.

The presiding judge, commenting on this type of confession, emphasized the helpless position of a person in the hands of police questioners without the aid of counsel. Although he reserved decision on admitting the confessions as evidence, the judge later allowed them to be used when it became obvious the prosecution had no case without them.

Dr. Rubinstein, a member of The Charter Group for a Pledge of Conscience, a Columbia University organization interested in freeing the Six, pointed out the court's refusal to appoint four prominent lawyers the mothers had persuaded to represent their sons. Instead, invoking a 1901 precedent, the court ruled that the indigent defendants must accept the court-appointed counsel.

Daniel Hamm dramatically emphasized the boys' distrust of their lawyers by refusing to take the stand in his defense. When one of his appointed attorneys explained that nobody had coerced him into his decision, Hamm replied, "If you want to use the word 'coerced', the Court did that itself by not giving me the proper defense."

The Charter Group and its four lawyers-- William Kunstler, Conrad Lynn, Gene Ann Condon, and Mrs. Mary Kaufman-- are seeking a new trial. The group is working on a "friend of the court" appeal on the untested grounds of the right of the defendant to counsel of his own choice.

Many long-established civil rights groups like the NAACP avoided the case because it was so "hot" and because the brutality and coercion involved in it were so "ordinary." Dr. Rubinstein explained that this was just the point: the indigent in cities across the country suffer such injustices every day.

Many in the audience signed a petition written by James Baldwin protesting "the outrages perpetrated against these men." His petition will be attached to the appeal brief.

N.K.

COOK CONTINUES

The recent Congressional election and democracy in American politics were the subjects of a talk given by Robert Cook, former AIM Congressional candidate, January 30 at a luncheon of New Haven lawyers at the Graduates Club. Reviewing the campaign, Cook said that one of its major goals was to increase the involvement and participation of ordinary citizens in political activity and issues. He said that both major parties were dominated by elites unresponsive to the needs of the people, and predicted the emergence of a new populist type party in the next five to ten years.

This talk was one of many given by Cook since Election Day in November. With a self-imposed schedule of one speaking engagement a week, Cook has appeared before a wide variety of organizations. He has addressed two large political conferences, the Conference of New England Peace Candidates in Boston, Mass., and the United for Peace conference in Long Island. In mid-December Cook shared the platform with Sanford Gottlieb, National Director of SANE, and Stephen Minot, AIM Congressional candidate in Connecticut's 6th District, in Norwalk, Conn.

Locally he has spoken to members of the Stratford Unitarian Church, a Congregational youth group in Wolcott, Conn., the Glastonbury Democratic Women's Club, Glastonbury, Conn. the Couples Club of the United Presbyterian Church of Milford, Yale's Branford College Forum, and an afternoon discussion group at the Cedar Street Senior Center.

On February 8 Cook was the guest speaker of the Waterbury Republican Club at the Elton House in Waterbury. He attended the Conference on Politics and the Great Society at Middlebury College, Middlebury, Vermont, February 10 and 11. Cook spoke to the Good Government Party of Ridgefield, Conn., February 17; to the Liberal Party at Yale University, February 23; and to undergraduates at Bridgeport University on March 1. March 9 he travelled to Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine to take part in a Political Science Seminar and public lecture.

Cook also spoke in Branford on March 27 as part of a lecture series on the Far East and American policy, and to the Progressive Party at Yale University on April 4.

FOREIGN POLICY LECTURES

Branford AIM sponsored a well attended series of lectures on foreign policy recently. Speakers were Dr. Harry Benda, "Vietnam Today," February 27; Dr. Jonathan Spence, "The Chinese World View," March 6; Robert Cook, "A Constructive Alternative in Foreign Policy," March 13.

american medicine cont.

able to the public at all times so that communities could be part of the planning at all stages.

With such a system, the United States could provide every citizen with the services to meet his medical needs and those of his family. It would also ensure him the ability to pay for them. As long as medicine in the United States remains a commercial business, the problems this article has mentioned will be with us. But America has the resources to wipe out these problems whenever the people decide to do so.

Amalia Crago, Carol King, Rich Beth

COMING EVENTS

Sat., April 8 - 6:30 p.m. - dinner with peace walkers marching from Boston to Washington, D.C. St. Paul's Episcopal Church, corner of Chapel and Olive Streets, 75¢ per person. The walkers will be passing through New Haven on April 7 and 8. They will be in New York for the April 15th demonstration and walk on to Washington.

Tuesday, April 11 - 3-6 p.m. - "Kite-Fly-in" by AIM high school afiliate. New Haven Green. (If Tues. wind is bad, look for kites on Wednesday.)

Wed., Thurs., Fri., - The mobile unit will be touring with its performance of poetry, song, dance and speech.

Wed., April 12 - 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. - Silent Vigil, New Haven Green. COME.

Fri., April 14 - 8 p.m. til morning - "Film-in, Art Show and Speak-out". Street Hall, Chapel and High Sts.

Sat., April 15 - 9:00 a.m. - buses leave New Haven Green going to New York demonstration.

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